

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1241

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2016

Killing of Bus Driver in Australia

Venkatesh Babu Shri T.G.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that an Indian origin bus driver was burnt to death in Australia recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Indian Government has taken up the matter with the Australian authorities for a probe and also for the safety of Indians living in the sub-continent and adequate compensation to the kin of dead;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) Yes, Government of India is aware of the tragic incident that took place in Brisbane, capital of Australian state of Queensland, on 28 October, 2016 when Shri Manmeet Sharma alias Alisher, a 29 years old Australian citizen of Indian origin hailing from Punjab, was killed by an unidentified assailant by throwing a highly inflammable substance, leading to his death from severe burns, while he was on duty driving a Brisbane city bus.

(c) & (d) Government of India has taken up the matter with Australian Government at the highest level. On 30.10.2016, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi telephoned Mr. Malcolm Turnbull, the Prime Minister of Australia and conveyed concern over the brutal killing. Prime Minister Turnbull assured that the matter is being investigated. Our High Commission in Canberra provided all assistance to the brother and a friend of the deceased who travelled from India for bringing back his mortal remains. Government of India has called for a thorough investigation so that justice is delivered to the bereaved family. There was an outpouring of shock and grief over the incident both by people of Indian origin and Australians in general. The Brisbane Council has set up a fund to support Shri Manmeet Sharma's family and has pledged to honour him with a permanent memorial. Mortal remains of Shri Manmeet Sharma arrived in New Delhi on 3.11.2016 and a team from Ministry of External Affairs headed by a senior officer provided full assistance in clearance of the mortal remains at the airport.

(e) Does not arise.